

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District

other names/site number Lawrence Farm

2. Location

street & number Hwy. 94 five miles West of Marthasville [n/a] not for publication

city or town Marthasville [X] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Warren code 219 zip code 63357

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[X] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my
opinion, the property [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered
significant [] nationally [] statewide [X] locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Claire F. Blackwell 24 November 1992
Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date

[] entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined eligible for the
National Register
See continuation sheet [].

[] determined not eligible for the
National Register.

[] removed from the
National Register

[] other, explain
See continuation sheet [].

5 Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	7	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0
		0	0
		0	0
		7	0

Name of related multiple property listing.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

n/a

n/a

6 Function or Use

Historic Function

DOMESTIC/Single Family
AGRICULTURAL/Animal Facility

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/Single Family
AGRICULTURAL/Storage
VACANT/Not in use

7 Description

Architectural Classification

Other: Missouri-German

Materials

foundation Limestone
walls Brick
roof Metal
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1864-1931

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

UTM References

A. Zone Easting Northing
15 667160 4276880

B. Zone Easting Northing

C. Zone Easting Northing

D. Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Becky L. Snider

organization N/A date May 13, 1997

street & number 1008 Sunset Drive telephone 573/443-3241

city or town Columbia state Missouri zip code 65203

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Stanley Lawrence

street & number 4414 Village Drive telephone 573/893-2976

city or town Jefferson City state Missouri zip code 65109

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Section 7 Page 1

Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, MO

Summary:

The Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District, Marthasville vicinity, is located just west of Charrette Creek on Highway 94 in Warren County. The 5 acre district represents the core of a 110 acre farmstead established by Ludwig Starke in the 1860's. The district consists of seven contributing buildings. Two of the buildings, the two-story I-house and the smokehouse, are constructed of brick and date between 1863-1870. The design, construction, and craftsmanship of the house and the smokehouse display the distinctive characteristics of the Missouri-German Vernacular style. The other five contributing resources are all frame outbuildings and were constructed in the early part of the twentieth century. The outbuildings are a gambrel roof barn, two machine sheds, a garage, and a hen house.

Elaboration:

The Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District is located on a gravel drive approximately 1/10 of a mile off of Highway 94. The smokehouse, barn and other outbuildings are arranged in a linear grouping flanking the two story I-house. (See Figure One) At a distance of approximately 200 feet, the barn sits the greatest distance from the house.

The house, which faces north-northeast, is composed of a two-story rectangular main block (50'3" x 20') adjoined by two single-story rear ells aligned flush with the ends of the main block. The larger ell (20'1 1/2" x 20'4") doubled the depth of the house on the southwest end and served as a kitchen. The bathroom in this ell was a twentieth century addition. The original function of the smaller ell (10'-2" x 10'-2") is unknown. A screened-in porch joined the two ells. The screen-in porch and both of the brick rear ells have been dismantled after they were damaged by floodwater. The current owner plans to rebuild both of these ells when he renovates the house.

The house sits on a limestone foundation and is constructed entirely of brick laid out in common bond. The exterior walls of the house are three bricks thick and the interior walls are two bricks thick. The bricks for the house appear to have been made on site. The current owner has found hoof prints in a few of the bricks from the kitchen.

The primary facade of the house consists of five bays and is surmounted by a one bay wide two-story open porch supported by square columns. This front elevation has regularly-spaced segmental-arched six-over-six windows, four on the first floor and directly above them four on the second floor. In addition, two doors open onto the front of the house. Each of these entrances has a rectangular door surrounded by a rectangular transom and sidelights. A gable roof covers the main portion of the house and is covered with green painted metal. The two story porch has square columns and a pedimented gable roof. The rear ells had both segmental-arched windows and doors. The larger kitchen ell could be entered from both inside and outside the house, but the smaller ell could only be accessed via the screened-in porch. Both of the rear ells and the screened porch had flat roofs.

The interior of the house retains its original plan and follows typical I-house form. (See Figure Two) The house is two stories tall and one room deep. On the main floor, a living room and a dining room/parlor are separated by a central hallway. Each room has two windows on the front facade and one window centered on the side facade. The narrow central hallway (8'-8" x 20'-0") has an exterior door at each end and contains the staircase to the second floor. At the rear of the hallway, a doorway

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Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, MO

opens onto the staircase which leads to the cellar and basement. The main floor of the house was severely affected by the floods. Most of the plaster is gone from the walls and the floor in the living area was damaged. Subsequently, it has been removed pending repairs to the floor joists. Since the bathroom and kitchen no longer exist, the only modern addition to the house is its electrical lighting. The house is still heated by wood stoves.

The plan of the second floor of the house mirrors the first. A central hallway separates two bedrooms of almost identical size and provides access to the balcony at the front of the house. Each of the bedrooms have two windows on the front facade of the house and one window centered on the rear facade. An additional window at the rear of the hallway divides the rear facade into three bays.

The lower level of the house has a partial basement. Only the area under the hallway and the dining room/parlor was excavated. At the bottom of the stairs, the area under the hallway is a cellar with a dirt floor. In contrast, the area under the dining room/parlor has a concrete floor. This area also can be entered through a door on the northern end of the house. The outline of a gable-roofed covering over the exterior stairway and entrance to the basement still can be seen.

Four of the five chimneys in the Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke house are paired on the gable ends and are built into the walls. They do not protrude from the gable end walls and, like the rest of the house, they are constructed of brick. The fifth fireplace was built into the south wall of the kitchen. There is no evidence to suggest that fireplaces have ever existed in the Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke house. The house appears to have been built to be heated with stoves. Each of the bedrooms, the living room, and the parlor had a stove.

The smokehouse is a small double-story height building approximately fifty feet south of the house. Its walls are constructed entirely of brick, and it has a dirt floor. The smokehouse measures 15' x 16' and its gable ends face west and east. Vents laid into the brick pattern on the west and east gable ends and two levels of large closely-spaced beams reveal this building's function. Like the house, the doors and window of the smokehouse have brick segmental-arched lintels. The gable roof is red painted metal and has only a slight overhang. The rafters and beams of a covered porch on the south side of building still remain. This covered porch seems to have been a later addition.

The large gambrel-roofed barn built with post and beam construction sits approximately 200 feet east of the house. It measures thirty eight feet wide and fifty feet long. The gambrel ends of the roof face west and east. The plank-truss Sawyer method was combined with balloon framing techniques for the construction of the barn's gambrel roof. The main level of the barn is laid out in an unusual fashion. (See Figure Three) A covered area extending the length of the barn on the south side has been incorporated into the plan of the main floor. This covered area makes up approximately one fourth of the main level footprint of the barn. The rest of the main floor of the barn is fully enclosed. The interior section of the main floor is composed of two rows of stalls divided by a five foot wide walkway. On the north side of the barn, there are two cattle stalls and a feed room. On the south side, there are four horse stalls and a tack room. The walkway of the barn is elevated and may have been used as a threshing floor. The second floor of the barn is undivided. It is a large open space for feed storage. The exterior of the barn was recently painted, but the interior has not been cleaned out since the most recent flood. Overall, the barn is in good condition, but it is only used for storage today.

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Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, MO

The garage is a single bay frame building with a gable-front roof, clad in vertical tongue and groove siding. It faces north-northeast and sits just east of the house. It is the closest structure to the house at approximately thirty feet away. The garage measures 11' x 18' and has a set of side-hinged double doors on the north facade. Currently, the garage is empty.

Both of the machine sheds are three-bay frame buildings with gable-front roofs. Both face north-northeast. One of the machine sheds sits east of the house at a distance of approximately 150 feet. It measures 31' x 34' and consists of a large center bay flanked by two smaller bays. It still houses some farm machinery today. The second machine shed sits approximately fifty feet southwest of the house and is slightly smaller (30' x 30') than the shed east of the house. This shed currently is used only for storage. Both of these structures are clad in vertical tongue and groove siding. The structure to the east has some missing posts; the structure to the southwest was pushed by the floodwater and is leaning considerably.

The chicken house, seventy-five feet east of the house, sits between the smokehouse and the east machine shed. Like the machine sheds and the garage, the chicken house is a frame building covered with vertical tongue and groove siding and an unpainted corrugated metal roof. However, unlike the other outbuildings, the chicken house has a shed roof instead of a gable roof. The chicken house is empty except for a few pieces of lumber and some old doors. It, like the machine sheds, is leaning as a result of the force of the floodwater in 1993 and 1995.

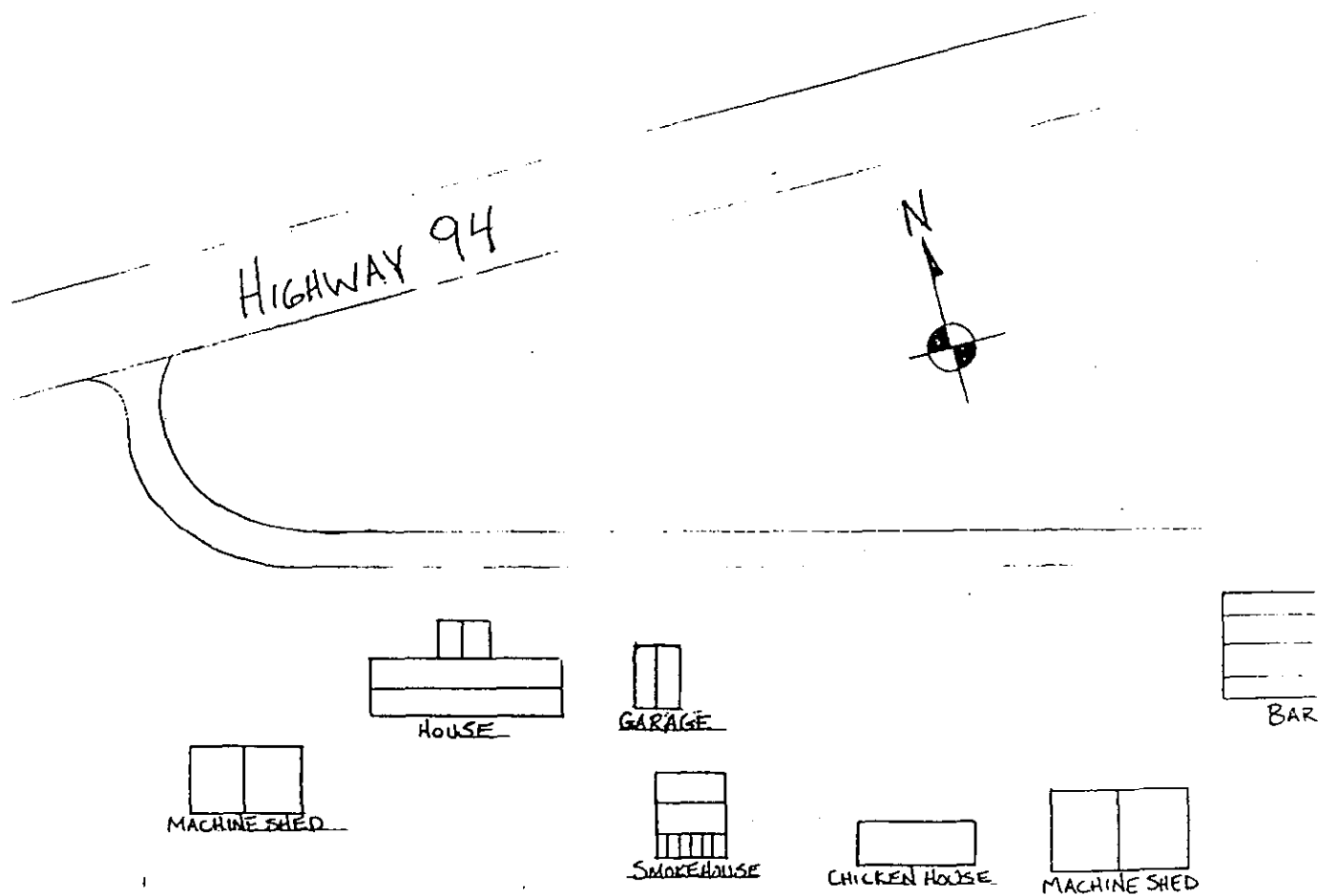
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Starke-Melnershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, MO

Figure One: Starke-Melnershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District Site Map



*NOT TO SCALE

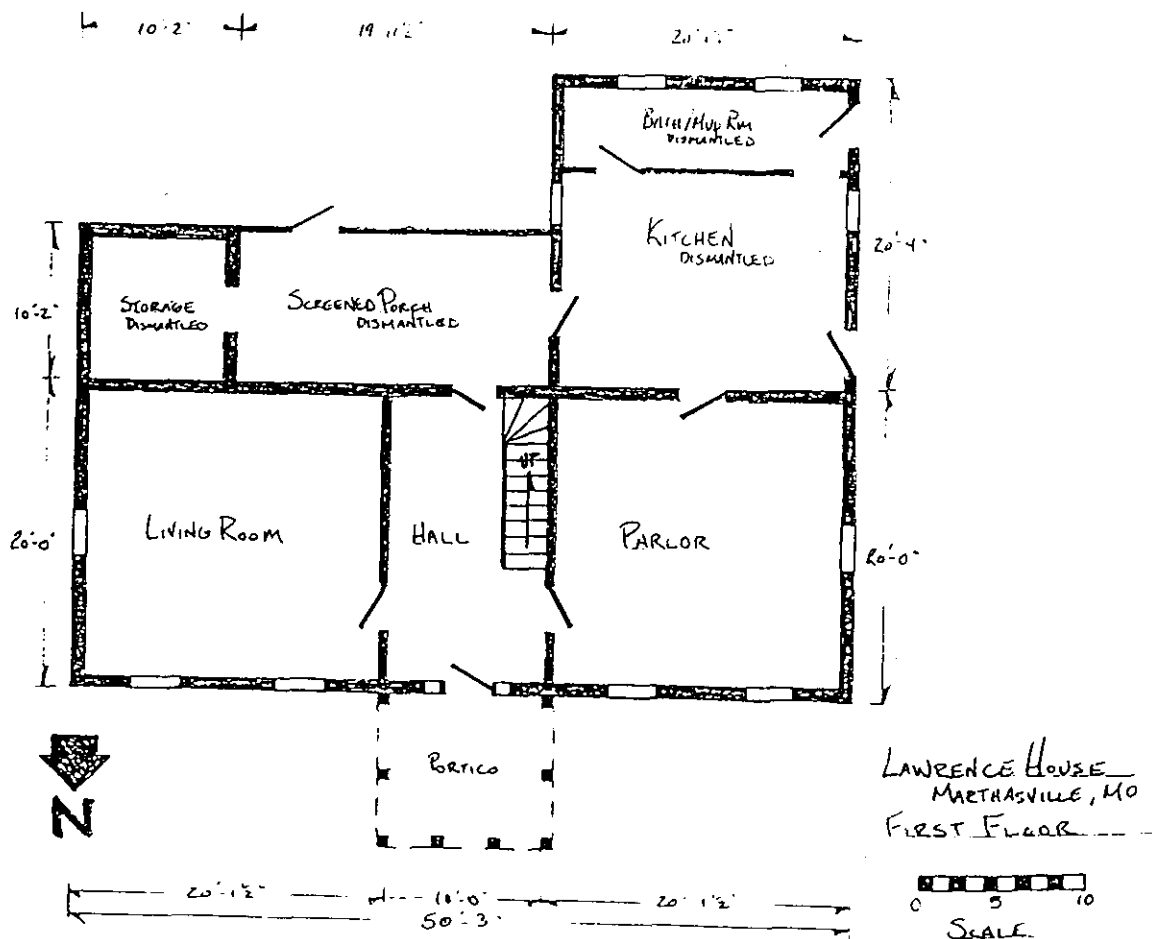
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Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, NC

Figure Two: House Floorplan, First Floor



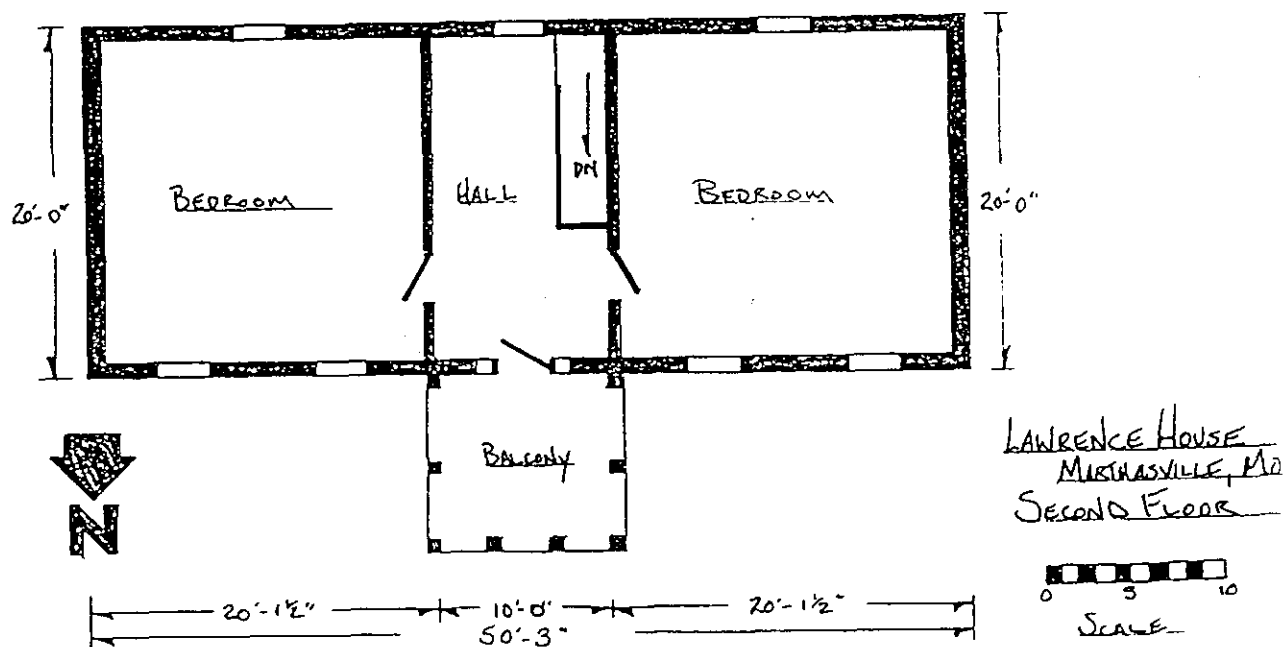
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Starke-Melnershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, MO

Figure Three: I-house Floorplan, Second Floor



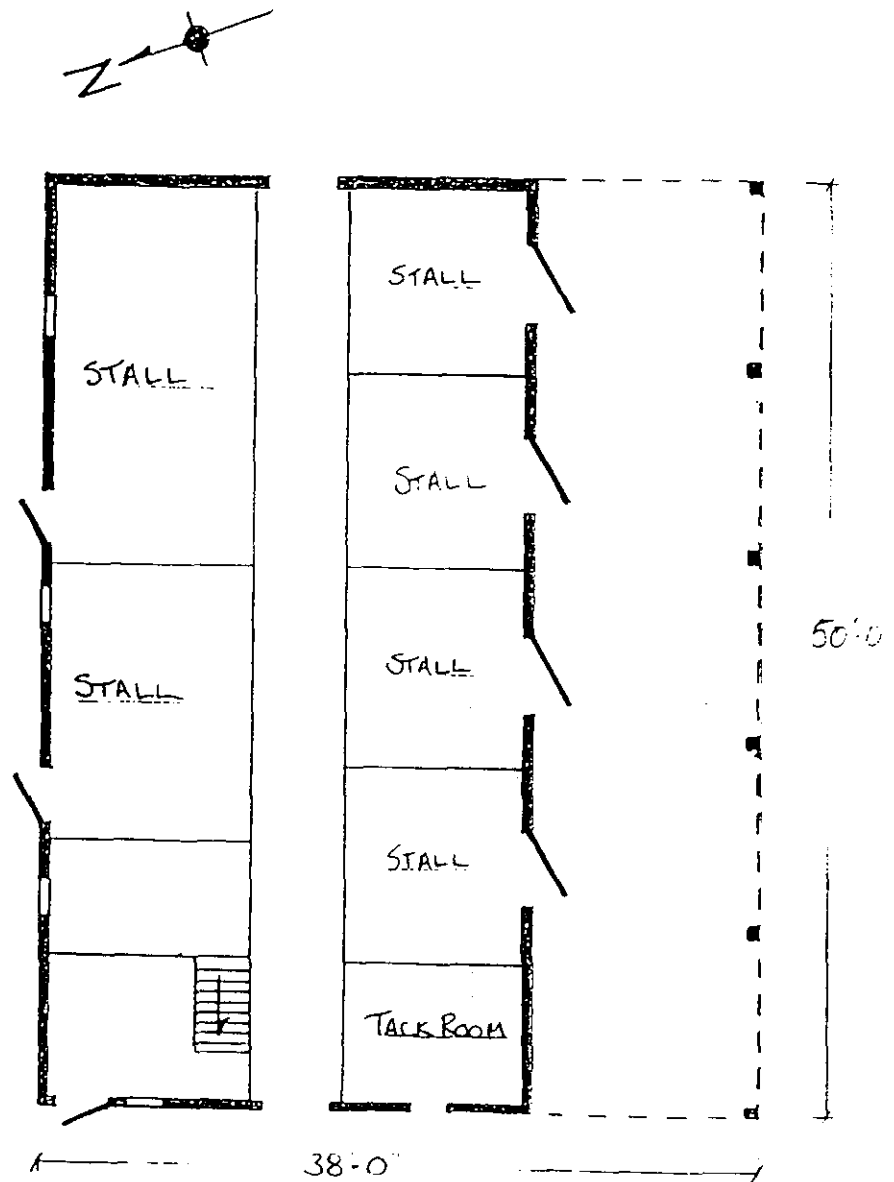
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Starke-Melnershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
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Figure Four: Barn Floorplan



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Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, MO

Summary:

The Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Farm Historic District located on Highway 94 approximately five miles west of Marthasville in Warren County is significant both historically and architecturally as a substantially intact example of the moderate-sized single-family farm typical in the Warren County area in the late 19th and early 20th century. Under Criterion A, in the area of agriculture, the types of buildings and their spatial relationships are representative of a prosperous farming operation which developed out of the move away from hand-worked semi-subsistence farming to machine-assisted commercial production. In addition, the farm was exceptional in its production yields during the 1870's and 1880's and continued to thrive even during the depression of the 1920's. Under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, the district is significant in its representation of vernacular buildings typical in late nineteenth and early twentieth century agrarian architecture in Missouri. In addition, the house and smokehouse distinctly display the design and construction features of the Missouri-German style and the barn represents a transitional method of construction combining the plank-truss framing system popular in the late 19th and early 20th century with balloon framing techniques which developed after 1900.

The period of significance, c 1864-1931, was chosen because of the construction dates of the buildings which represent the period of development and prosperity of the farmstead. This period extends from the year Ludwig Starke purchased the 45 acres to complete the 110 acre farmstead to the death of John Boeke and the sale of the property on the courthouse steps.

Elaboration:

The 1860 census showed Ludwig Starke, a native of Germany, as a farmer living in the Thomas Carr household in Charrette Township, Warren County, Missouri.¹ However, in 1863, Starke purchased 62.58 acres of land along Charrette Creek from Newton H. Bryan at a price of \$12.80 per acre. This parcel of land was a portion of the Widow Saint Francesway Survey No. 873 which had been laid out in 1817. One year later, Starke purchased an adjacent parcel of land from Ernst Dothage. He paid Dothage \$1450.00 for 45.25 acres. This second parcel of land was located on the Northwest edge of the land known as Survey Claim No. 748 also laid out in 1817.² These two parcels of land formed the bulk of the original 110 acre farmstead on which the house and smoke house were constructed in the 1860's.

The exact date of construction of the house and smokehouse have not been determined, but both the house and the smokehouse appear to have been built between 1863 and 1870. The large increase in the property values between the time Ludwig Starke purchased the property in 1863-64 and the time he sold the property to Frederick J. Meinershagen along with the stylistic elements of the house and smokehouse suggest that construction was completed by 1870.

During the forty nine years that the Boeke family owned the farm, the barn, the two machine sheds, the chicken house, and the garage were constructed. The farm stayed in the Boeke family until Henry's son, John F. Boeke, died in 1931 without a will and without heirs. In order to satisfy a lien on the

¹1860 Census Index and Population Schedules for Warren County, Missouri.

²Deed Records

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Starke-Melnershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
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property, the house was sold on the courthouse steps for \$10,400 to Dr. Grover C. Johnson and his wife Emily.³

Architectural Significance

Marthasville, Missouri, like nearby Hermann and Washington, Missouri, was one of the early settlement areas for Germans immigrants to Missouri. German immigrants began to move into the area in the 1830's. They established early settlements at St Charles, Marthasville-Augusta, Washington, Hermann, and Westphalia in the counties along the Missouri river.⁴ (See Figure Four) By 1834, more than 100 of the Giesener Emigration Society has settled around Dutzow and Marthasville. These German immigrants significantly affected the development Marthasville. According to Ralph Gregory, a local historian "German settlers added qualities which enriched human life. Compared to the American element, they contributed more careful thorough farming, and they built more substantial homes and barns. They brought a readiness for hard work, created many industries, and added many crafts to the area. In 1860, six of the nine businesses in Marthasville were owned by German settlers."⁵ The 1860, 1870, and 1880 census for the portion of Charrette Township served by the Marthasville post office indicate that German and German-American farmers made up the bulk of the population of the area.⁶

The building style known as Klassicismus was favored by German immigrants and German-American builders up until the 1850's. Klassicismus is the German variant of the Neoclassic styles in the United States known as Federal or Greek Revival. German builders fused German traditions with Anglo-American forms. Klassicismus is characterized by a simple restrained form, symmetrical facade, straight lintels made of stone or white painted wood, little or no roof overhang, and lights above and around doors. However, buildings in the Klassicismus style are further distinguished from the American styles by paired gable-end chimneys, central triangular pediments on the facade and parapet end walls. After 1850, Klassicismus developed into the Missouri German Vernacular style, a term coined by Charles Van Ravenswaay in his book The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri.

In this later style, the simple symmetrical form remained. However, the straight lintels gave way to curved brick arches above the windows and doors, and the pediments gained more prominence in their place above two-story wood or cast-iron balconies.⁷

³ibid.

⁴H.W. Marshall and James W. Goodrich (eds.). The German-American Experience in Missouri, (Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press) p.25.

⁵Ralph Gregory "The German Contribution" Marthasville: Rich in History, A Collection of Photographs and Articles by various writers concerning Marthasville history & published over the years in The Marthasville Record, (Marthasville: Ruben Eichmeyer) p. 5.

⁶1860, 1870, 1880 Agricultural Censuses for Warren County, Missouri

⁷Erin Renn, "An Introduction to Nineteenth Century Missouri German Architecture. A Guide to the Tours, 1989 p. 67.

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Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, MO

The I-house form was widely adopted by German builders. According to Fred Kniffen, an expert on the I-house form, of all old folk types, the I-house is by far the most widely distributed.⁸ The I-house form was a common rural vernacular form in the Midwest and was often associated with successful farming operations. I-houses are two stories tall, one room deep, at least two rooms wide and have a gabled roof with the gable ends to the side. Generally, the front door is centered on the long side. Wide variations in window, chimney and stair placement and one or two-story rear ells are common.

Brick construction was favored by Missouri Germans farmers in the Marthasville area. In the Warren County Historic Sites Catalog, most of the German-owned homes are of brick construction.⁹ In his book The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri, Charles Van Ravenswaay discussed this preference for brick building by German immigrants. Not only were many houses, churches and commercial buildings in German settlement areas constructed of brick, but "wherever possible, the German builders preferred brick ells to wooden and usually included them in the design of their brick houses."¹⁰ Furthermore, Van Ravenswaay noted that the use of brick in the construction of minor buildings such as smokehouses and privies was widely adopted by German builders. The common bond brick pattern was the most widely used by German builders.

The German origins of a building often are revealed through its design and construction features, and the style of the doors and windows can suggest a probable construction date. The brick segmental-arch lintels over both the windows and doors and the four-paneled doors that are found throughout the Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke house were common features in German-American houses after 1860. In addition, the Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke house does not have the casement windows which "were characteristically employed by German builders in Missouri until at least 1860."¹¹ Instead, the six-over-six double-hung windows found in the Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke house were the common replacement for casement type windows in German built houses in the late nineteenth century.

The use of metal roofing was widespread in the United States by the mid-nineteenth century. However, among German builders, it was customary to paint the roof red to add "a bright note to the roofscapes of the town and to the winter landscapes of the countryside"¹²

Two of the more distinctive features of Missouri German houses are discussed by Erin Renn in her article "An Introduction to Nineteenth Century Missouri German Architecture."

"German-built chimneys are either centered in the house, with one chimney serving two or three rooms (as in Deutschheim State Historic Site's Strehly House in Hermann), or built into the end walls (as in the same site's Pommer-Gentner House). They are not on the outside of the wall, as in English work.

⁸Fred Kniffen, "Folk Housing, Key to Diffusion," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 155, 1965, p.555.

⁹Margaret C. Schowengert, Warren County Historic Sites Catalog, Warrenton, 1976.

¹⁰Charles Van Ravenswaay, The Arts and Architecture of German Settlements in Missouri: Survey of a Vanishing Culture, 1977, p. 226.

¹¹Erin Renn, 1989, p.65.

¹²Ibid. p.

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Warren County, MO

The chimneys are normally designed to service closed tile or cast iron stoves because most Germans disapproved of the inefficiency of open fireplaces" ¹³

The form, construction, and style of Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke house and smokehouse demonstrate the syncretism of the Anglo-American I-house form with German building features common throughout Missouri. The Missouri-German Vernacular style of the house along with the great increase in the value of the farmstead places the construction date of these two buildings to the period Ludwig Starke owned the property.

Agricultural Significance

The success of the farming operations of Ludwig Starke and Frederick Meinershagen can be measured by comparing the agricultural census reports from 1870 and 1880. Although Meinershagen was listed on the 1870 agricultural census, the information reported in this census year reflected Starke's production numbers since Meinershagen purchased the farm in March, 1870 and the census information represented the year ending in June, 1870. The 1870 census indicated that 85 acres of the 110 acre farmstead were improved. From these 85 acres, Starke produced 1500 bushels of Indian corn, 200 bushels of wheat, and 50 bushels of Irish potatoes. He owned 4 horses, two milk cows, one other cow, and 20 pigs. The Starke farm also produced 200 pounds of butter. In the 1870 census, the farm was valued at \$9000. The same year, Frederick Meinershagen, a first generation American of Prussian descent purchased the farm from Ludwig Starke for \$9000. ¹⁴

In the ten years between the 1870 and 1880 census', Meinershagen greatly increased his production of wheat and corn, and he began growing oats. By 1870, the farming operation started by Starke had exceeded self-sufficiency levels in the production of Indian corn and wheat. Meinershagen was undoubtedly following the trend of commercialization sweeping through the midwest. Using the livestock supplementary feeding standards for 1859 reported in Jeremy Atack and Fred Bateman's article "Self-sufficiency and the Marketable Surplus in the Rural North, 1860," Meinershagen's yields indicated that he was producing Indian corn, wheat, and oats for the commercial markets.¹⁵ In addition, by 1880, his production of Indian corn was much greater than farms of similar size in Warren County while his yields of wheat and oats were comparable to those of his neighbors. The 1880 census indicated that Meinershagen produced 2800 bushels of Indian corn, 600 bushels of wheat, and eighty bushels of oats. A table based on U.S. Census statistics in the article "A Century of Missouri Agriculture" indicates that the average yield per acre for corn in 1879 in Missouri was 36.2 bushels and the average yield for wheat was 12.0 bushels per acre.¹⁶ Meinershagen was devoting 40 acres to the production of corn, so his yield averaging 70 bushels per acre was more than twice the state average. His yield of wheat was equal to the state average. According to the 1889 census, Meinershagen owned two horses, three mules, three milk cows, two other head of other cattle, and thirty-five pigs. His farm produced 600 eggs, 154 pounds of butter and twenty-five bushels of Irish

¹³Ibid. p. 65.

¹⁴1870 Agricultural Census for Missouri

¹⁵Jeremy Atack and Fred Bateman "Self-sufficiency and the Marketable Surplus in the Rural North, 1860" p.303.

¹⁶F.B. Mumford. "A Century of Missouri Agriculture" p. 286.

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Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Warren County, MO

potatoes. Additionally, during 1879, he bought and sold seven other head of cattle. In 1880, the Meinershagen farm was valued at \$10,000.¹⁷ While this figure represented an increase in the farm's value of only \$1000 in ten years, the value of the Meinershagen farm in 1880 was higher than that of other farms of the same size in Charrette Township.

Frederich Meinershagen owned the property until 1882 when he sold the 110 acre farmstead to Henry Boeke. The farmstead stayed in the Boeke family until John Boeke's death. The continuation of successful farming throughout the years that the Boeke family owned the house is supported by the construction of the large barn as well as all of the other outbuildings around the house during this period and by warranty deed records for the family. Although no records which specifically date the outbuildings have been found, the style and construction of the outbuildings buildings are similar to many others in the area which date between 1880 and 1930.

The gambrel roof of the barn was framed using a combination of methods. The Shawver plank-truss framing system (See Figure Five) seems to have been modified to utilize balloon framing techniques. The truss design follows the form of the Shawver truss, but the trusses are closely spaced unlike the 10-12' spacing used in plank framing. According to the diagram in Lowell Soike's section of Barns of the Midwest, entitled "Within the Reach of All: Midwest Barns Perfected" (See Figure Five), the Shawver truss plank framing method was used from the 1880's to the 1930's and balloon framing began to be used around the turn of the century. The combination of these two construction methods combined with the warranty deeds of John Boeke help to date the barn to the early twentieth century.

Between 1911 and his death in 1931, John Boeke borrowed fairly large sums of money from both his neighbors and the Marthasville bank. These loans may have been used to build outbuildings and buy machinery for his farm. In 1910, Boeke borrowed \$1300 from Gustave Ahman and Anton Schwoeppe. A year later, he borrowed another \$600. These loans were repaid in 1929 and 1922 respectively. In the 1920's, Boeke began borrowing from the Marthasville Bank. In 1924, he borrowed \$2500 and in 1929, he borrowed \$5500. These notes were repaid in 1929 and 1930 respectively. Shortly before he died, Boeke borrowed \$7000.¹⁸

Boeke's ability to secure and repay loans reflects his success in farming. While his success at the beginning of the century is consistent with the period of great prosperity (1901-1920) described by Floyd Calvin Shoemaker in his book Missouri and Missourians: Land of Contrasts and People of Achievements, Boeke's apparent continued success through the 1920's is remarkable. According to Shoemaker, the first two decades of the 20th century were marked with general agricultural prosperity for Missouri. Land values were high and farm products brought high prices. Farmers were able to have better homes, better schools, improved farms, and a higher standard of living. Despite the fact that the rural population of Missouri declined, agricultural production increased. The spread of agricultural education and scientific farming techniques brought about better farming while improved roads and the spread of the automobile made getting agricultural products to market an easier task.¹⁹

¹⁷1880 Agricultural Census for Missouri

¹⁸Personal records of Stanley Lawrence, warranty deeds, deed of trust

¹⁹Floyd Calvin Shoemaker, Missouri and Missourians: Land of Contrasts and People of Achievements, Vol.2, (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1943) p. 452-3.

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In contrast, farmers were much worse off in the 1920's and 1930's. In 1926, farm production in Missouri fell \$52,000,000 below that of 1925. Thus, the farmer's income also dropped. In addition, real estate values fell in Missouri. As an indication of the trend of the times, the farmer was especially warned against the dangers of installment buying of things not immediately needed on the farm and in the home.²⁰ The farmer's purchasing power decreased during the 1920's, but the tax burden on farmers increased. The improvements in schools, roads, and social service before and after the war resulted in much higher taxes for rural America. Between 1917 and 1930, taxes almost doubled.²¹ However, during this time not only was Boeke borrowing money, but also he was able to repay these debts, an indication of his prosperity despite the trouble of the times.

John Boeke died in 1931 leaving no will or heirs. Consequently, after his death, the farmstead was sold on the courthouse steps in 1931 to Dr. Grover Johnson to satisfy the liens held by the bank.²² Since Dr. Johnson sold the property in the 1970's, the 110 acre farmstead has been divided into smaller parcels of land. However, much of the land surrounding the Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke historic district is still being used as farmland.

Although the flooding of the Missouri River in 1993 and 1995 took its toll on the buildings in the Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District, all of the buildings still retain their integrity. the current owner hopes to rehabilitate the buildings and develop a bed and breakfast business on the property, catering to hikers and bikers from the nearby MKT Trail.

²⁰Ibid. p.458.

²¹Theodore Saloutos, The American Farmer and the New Deal. (Ames: The Iowa State University Press, 1982) p. 13.

²²Deed Records

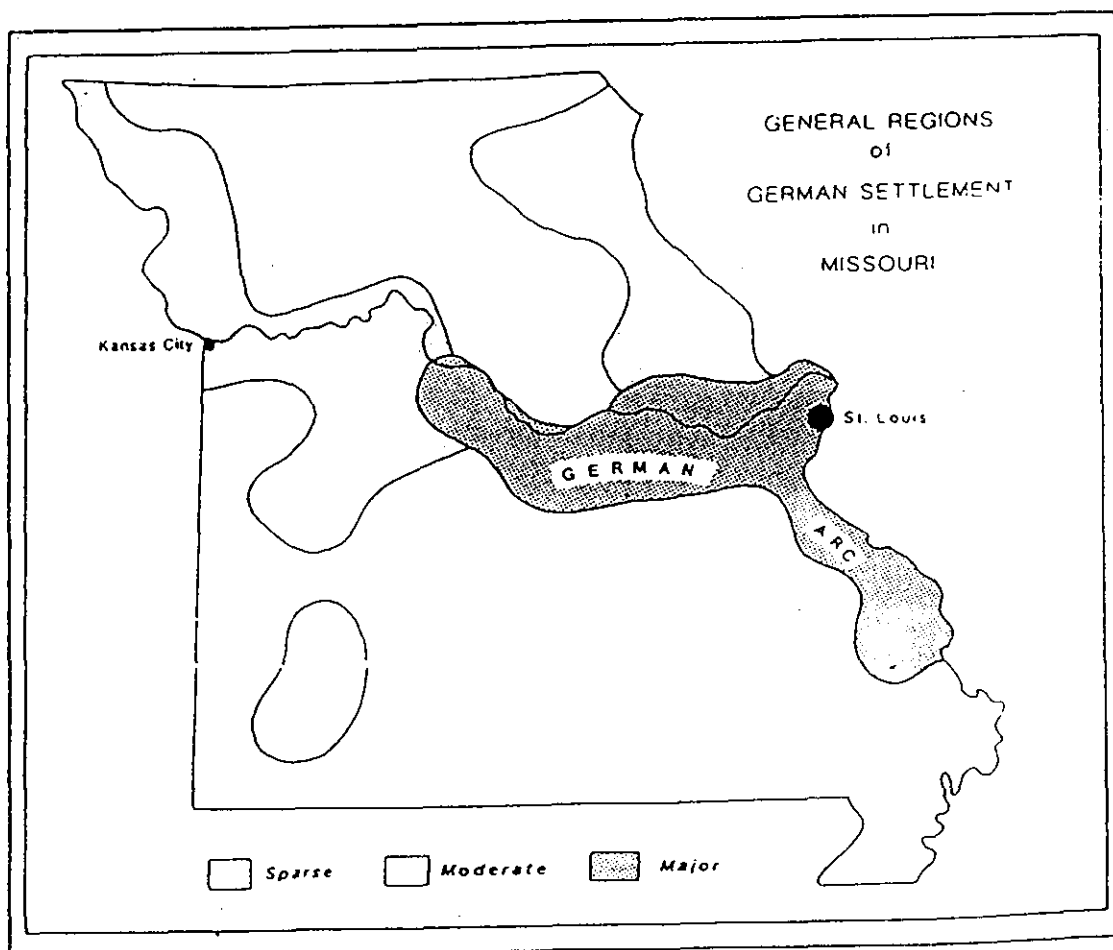
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Warren County, MO

Figure Five: German Settlement in Missouri. From "Rural Settlement Patterns of the German-Missourian Cultural Landscape." Map by Walter A. Schroeder.



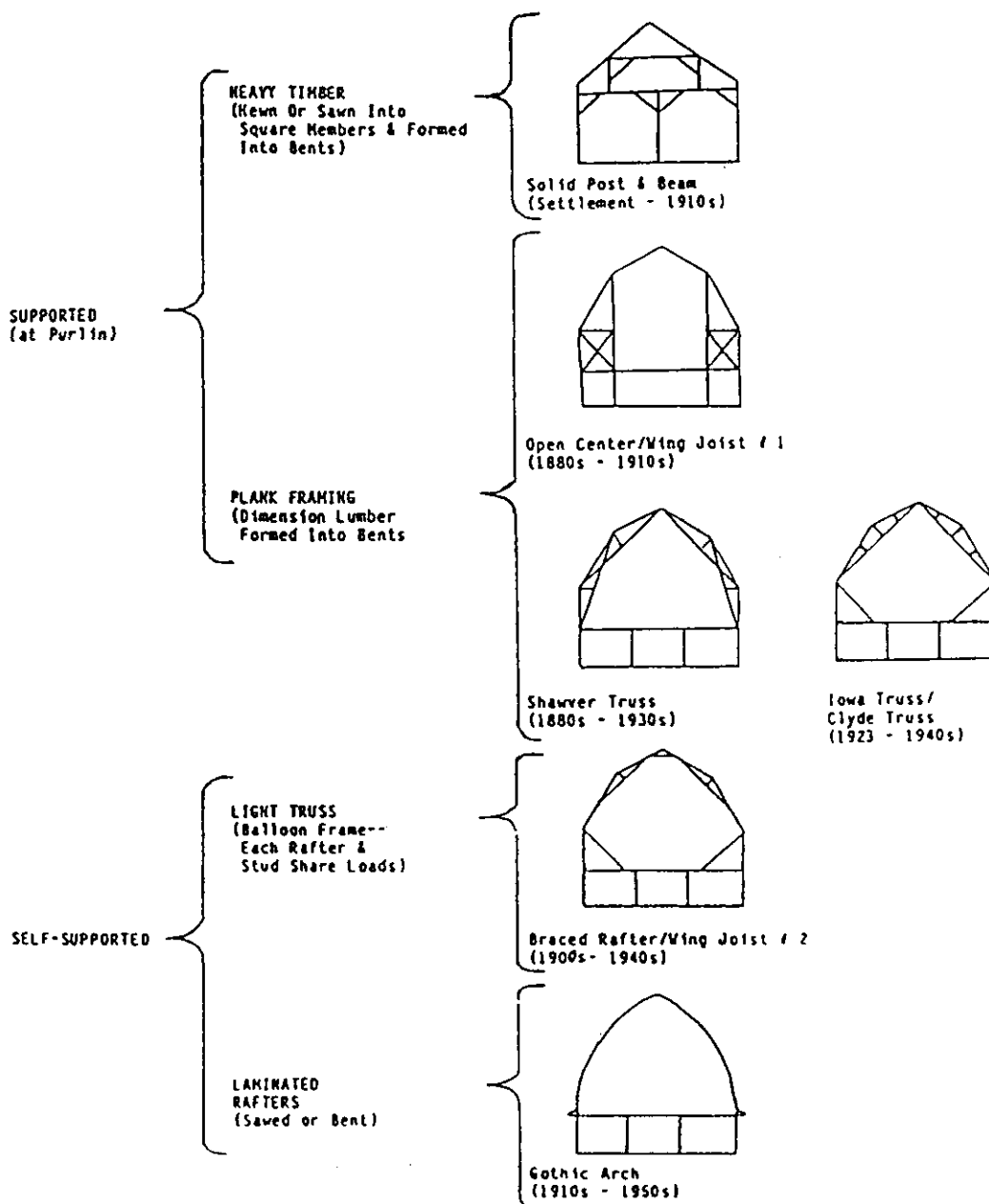
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Figure Six: Midwestern Barns: Roof-Frame Phases. From "Within the Reach of All" by Lowell J. Solke in Barns of the Midwest.



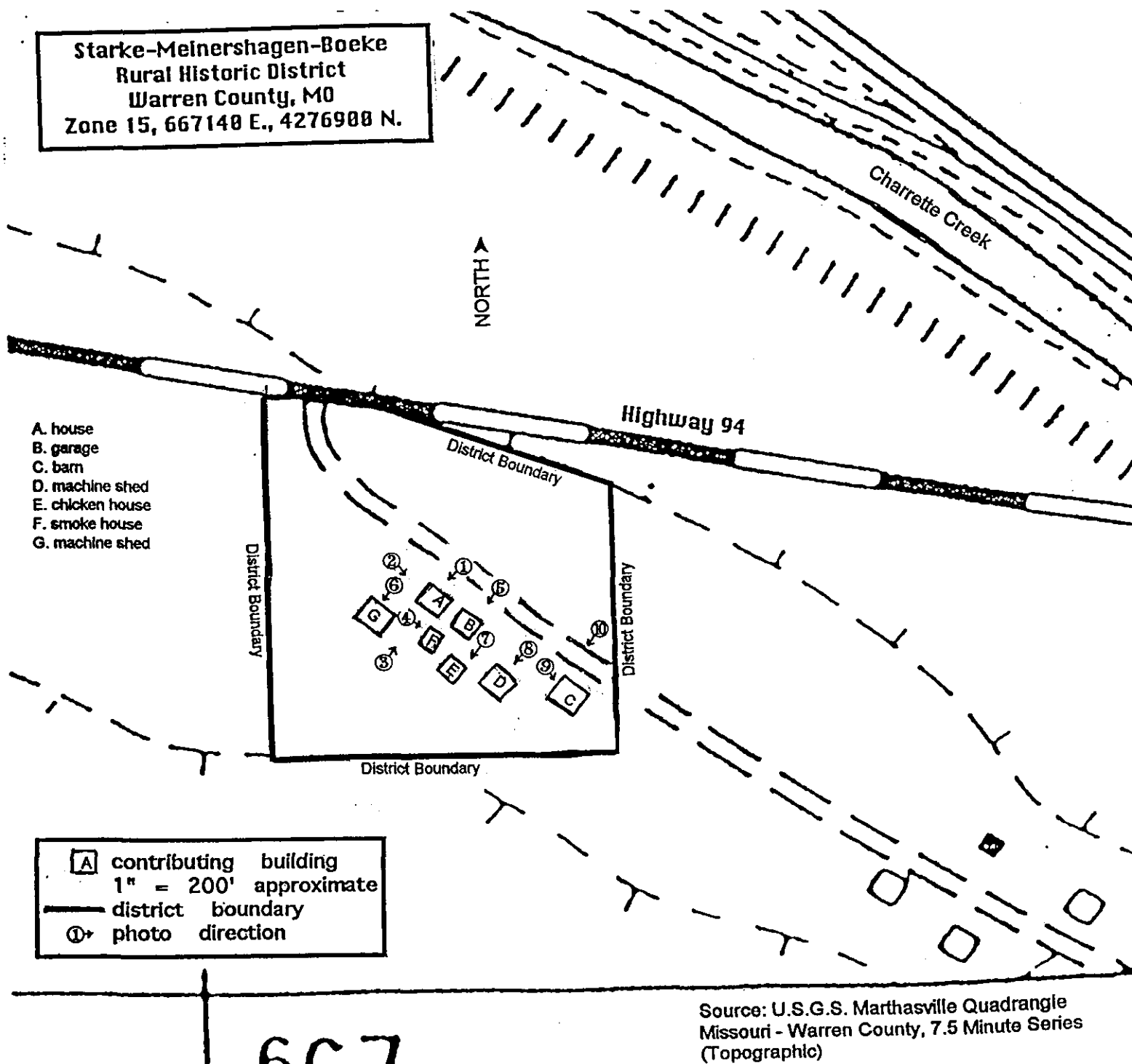
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Figure Seven: Site Map/Property Boundary/Photo Directions



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Interviews with Stanley C. Lawrence: November 1, 1996, November 15, 1996, January 1, 1997

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is indicated by the solid heavy line on the accompanying map, "Figure Seven: site map/property boundary/photo directions," Scale: 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district encompass the seven buildings and the five acres most immediately associated with the buildings, owned by the current owner, and which retain integrity.

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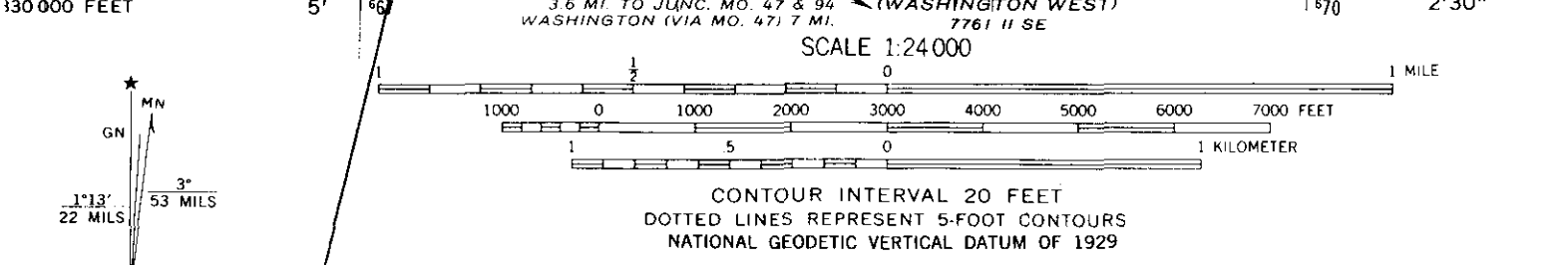
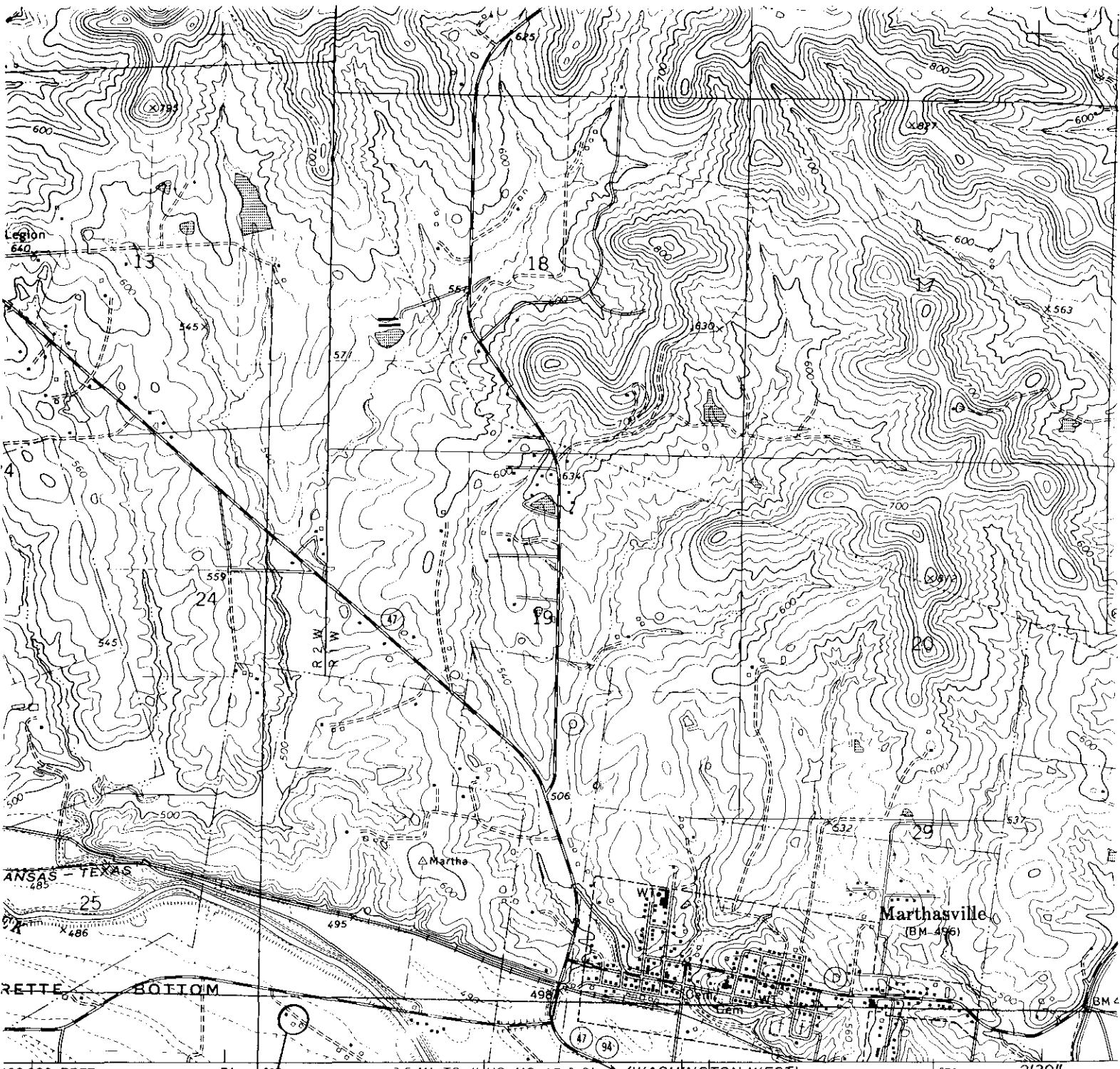
Photographs:

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Starke-Meinershagen-Boeke Rural Historic District
Section 25, Township 45 North, Range 2 West
Warren County, Missouri
Photographer: Becky Snider
March, 1997

Negatives on file with: Becky Snider
1008 Sunset Drive
Columbia, MO 65203

1. Brick I-house North-Northeast elevation
2. Brick I-house West elevation
3. Brick I-house South-Southwest elevation
4. Smokehouse West elevation
5. Garage North-Northeast elevation
6. West Machine Shed North-Northeast elevation
7. Chicken House North-Northeast elevation
8. East Machine Shed North-Northeast elevation
9. Barn West elevation
10. Barn North-Northeast elevation
11. Barn Interior



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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 AND DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY
 MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

WARREN COUNTY, MISSOURI
 RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 ZONE 15 667160 EASTING, 4276880 NORTHING





